

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 9-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1.-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing incorrect messages in a monitoring system for sensor circuits for motor vehicles, including using a program running on a processor to perform the steps of:

monitoring at least one input variable and checking whether the at least one monitored input variable exceeds a limiting value defined for the at least one input variable;

deriving a fault message when the at least one input variable being monitored exceeds the limiting value defined for that at least one input variable;

incrementing a counter respectively associated with the at least one input variable in response to the fault message by a first predetermined number of counter steps;

checking the counter to determine whether at least one fault message is present for one of the at least one input variable;

decrementing the counter for the at least one input variable by a second predetermined number of counter steps when a time period elapses without the occurrence of a fault message for that at least one input variable;

performing the step of monitoring and checking for the one of the at least one input variable if it is determined that at least one fault message is present for the one of the at least one input variable in said step of checking the counter; and

triggering an alarm only if the counter reaches an alarm limit for the at least one input variable.

9.-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the size of the increment and the value of the alarm limit are predefined for the at least one input variable.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the size of the increment and the value of the alarm limit are read from a nonvolatile memory when the process is initiated.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein fault messages are derived for each one of the at least one input variables to be monitored, wherein the size of the increments, the value of the alarm limits, and the limiting values are preselected for the each one of the at least one input variables.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of performing the step of monitoring and checking is performed according to a priority list if it is determined that a fault message is present for more than one of the at least one input variable.

16. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for suppressing incorrect messages in a monitoring system for sensor circuits for motor vehicles, comprising a microprocessor running a program for executing the steps of:

monitoring at least one input variable and checking whether the at least one monitored input variable exceeds a limiting value defined for the at least one input variable;

deriving a fault message when the at least one input variable being monitored exceeds the limiting value defined for that at least one input variable;

incrementing a counter respectively associated with the at least one input variable in response to the fault message by a first predetermined number of counter steps;

checking the counter to determine whether at least one fault message is present for one of the at least one input variable;

decrementing the counter for the at least one input variable by a second predetermined number of counter steps when a time period elapses without the occurrence of a fault message for that at least one input variable;

performing the step of monitoring and checking for the one of the at least one input variable if it is determined that at least one fault message is present for the one of the at least one input variable in said step of checking the counter; and

triggering an alarm only if the counter reaches an alarm limit for the at least one input variable.